

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

As result of the present amendment, claims 1, 6, 9-10, 21-24 and 26 remain in the case for continued prosecution. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice. The subject matter in claim 7 has been incorporated into claims 1 and 24. Claims 21 and 26 have been amended to include descriptions of variables V_a and V_b . Support can be found, for example, in claims 24-25 and at page 15 of the specification. No new matter has been added. Descriptions of variables R_{13-24} have been removed from claim 21 since variables R_{13-24} are not part of the subject matter of claim 21.

B. SPECIFICATION

Typographical errors referring to variables R_{13-24} in paragraph [0026], [0027] and [0030] have been corrected to refer to variables R_{3-4} . Support can be found, for example, in paragraph [0007]. No new matter has been added.

C. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected to the subject matter of all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response thereto, Applicants have amended the claims to recite that each of R_1 and R_2 is a polyalkylene oxide. Support can be found, for example, at page 12, lines 18-20 in the specification and claim 9. The functional language, "hydrolysis resistant bifunctional linker", for L_1 and L_2 in claim 1 has also been amended to recite the structural embodiments of cancelled claim 7.

It is urged that the claims are in proper form and that the all of the issues mentioned by the Examiner on pages 3-6 of the Office Action are fully addressed. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

D. DOUBLE PATENTING

The Examiner has rejected all pending claims based on the double patenting rejection over co-pending Application No. 10/705,743. In response, for the purposes of expediting the

prosecution and without admitting appropriateness of the rejection, Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer executed by the undersigned attorney of record.

Reconsideration and removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

D. FEES

This response is being filed within a shortened period for response. Thus, no further fee is believed to be required. If, on the other hand, it is determined that any further fees are due or any overpayment has been made, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to deposit account 02-2275. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

E. CONCLUSION

In view of the actions taken and arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that each and every one of the matters raised by the Examiner have been addressed by the present amendment and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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